

DOCKET NO: 240554US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
KUNIHIRO AKIYOSHI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: QIN, YIXING  
SERIAL NO: 10/627,731 :  
FILED: JULY 28, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2625  
FOR: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, :  
INFORMATION PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND VERSION CHECK  
METHOD

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election of Species requirement dated June 19, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the embodiment corresponding to at least Figure 4 identifying Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-30, 32-39, and 41-52 as readable on the provisionally elected species. In order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-30, 32-39, and 41-52 corresponding to at least Figure 4.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Election requirement on the

grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-52 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Ronald A. Rudder  
Registration No. 45,618